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to land, and in not a single case were they taken prisoner; the sheikhs had declared war on Germany and they had their own traditional way of dealing with prisoners.

The Khan Bahadur rendered invaluable service to the British Empire during the many years that he held office as Residency Agent and, apart from his successful efforts to eradicate enemy influence in the peninsula and ensure the loyalty of the tribes, he has always been a beneficent influence and has won respect and admiration for the Crown. His retirement from office in 1945 was a great loss to British interests in Oman, and there are many amongst those who were familiar with his work and influence who consider that his selfless service to the British Government should have been recognized by the honour of knighthood. He is an extremely simple man, however, and honours and titles have little appeal for him; he has retired quietly to his estates in Quwait, to cultivate his beautiful gardens, perhaps to write a book of reminiscences, and to dream of the days when his will and personality alone kept the tribes in subjection.

I had the privilege of knowing the Khan Bahadur well, as I was a frequent guest at his house on Sharjah creek, and a great deal of my knowledge of the Arab mind and culture was derived from the long talks we had together. The descendant of a Saiyed, that is, one who claimed descent from Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammed, he was educated at a university in India and took a degree in law. Entering the Indian Civil Service, he held several important appointments under the Indian Government and was eventually posted to Oman as British Residency Agent, a post to which his tact and gifts of diplomacy were well suited. Although himself a rich man, Abdur bin Razzak was always conscious of the primitive condition of the Arab tribes of Oman; he invariably took the side of the poor man, and fought strenuously against the tyranny of the sheikhs and the attempts of the rich merchants to victimize the peasantry.

He had nothing but contempt for the meanness and extravagance of the sheikhs, and was often driven to vitriolic outbursts of scorn at their neglect of their subjects. In truth I think there was much of the idealist and reformer in his make-up, for he had Utopian visions of an Arabia in which the desert was scientifically irrigated, so that the valleys not only flourished with thriving date plantations, but were green with wheat fields and vegetable crops.